

Name of Initiative:
Bioinformatics Resource Centers (BRC)

Brief Description of Initiative: This National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has awarded eight Bioinformatics Resource Centers having the goal to provide the scientific community with a resource that allows access to genomic and related data for the NIAID category A-C priority pathogens, pathogens causing emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and invertebrate vectors of infectious diseases. Genomic sequence data will be integrated with gene expression and proteomics information, host/pathogen interactions and pathways data. Curators will provide functional annotation of genes, based in published information or information directly contributed by the organism experts. The BRCs are supported by multi-disciplinary teams and will also provide training sessions and tutorials on their centers' data and tools. Interaction and collaboration with the pathogen domain experts will drive the direction for the future Centers' activities. The BRCs have established a portal that provides search capabilities across all the BRCs, an open source software tool repository and access to the entire set of genome sequence data of all the organisms supported by the BRCs in the standard GFF3 file format.

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Web addresses: More details about the BRCs may be found at <http://www.brc-central.org> and at the NIAID web site <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/genomes/brc/default.htm/>.